

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 and 15-18 have been allowed.

Claim 19 has been amended in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, which is believed to be moot. Claim 19 has also been amended to recite that the projecting portion of the fuel tank is fitted in the gap between the longitudinal wall and the floor plate to fix the fuel tank. Basis for this is found at page 18, lines 3-11.

Claim 19 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent publication 2003/0006349 (Sadowsky et al). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For example, Claim 19 recites that the fuel tank has a hollow projecting portion formed in an upper end portion of said fuel tank and projecting beyond the longitudinal wall. This permits an increase in the fuel capacity of the fuel tank since the hollow portion of the fuel tank occupies a space above the longitudinal wall. Sadowsky et al discloses elongated pressure cylinders 3 whose ends 4 are mounted in the mounting attachments 6 supported by notches 15 of brackets 2. The ends are plugged at 4b (paragraph [0041]).

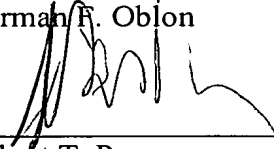
The Office Action considers the brackets to be longitudinal walls. However, even in this case, there is no *hollow* projecting portion formed in an upper end portion of the fuel tank [3] and projecting beyond the longitudinal wall [2]. The ends 4 in Sadowsky et al are plugged, and not hollow, and so cannot contributed to an increased volume for the fuel tank. Original Claim 19 therefore defines over this reference.

In any case, Claim 19 now further recites that the projecting portion of the fuel tank is fitted in the gap between the longitudinal wall and the floor plate to fix the fuel tank. There is no teaching of this in Sadowsky et al.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit and early notice of allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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